



## Federal Aviation Administration

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# Memorandum

Date: SEP 1 2005

From: Manager, Flight Procedure Standards Branch, AFS-420

To: Manager, National Flight Procedures Office, AVN-100

Prepared by: Flight Procedure Standards Branch, AFS-420

Subject: Clarification of TERPS Paragraph 251b(1,2)

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**PURPOSE.** This memorandum provides criteria clarification concerning the requirement to limit minimum visibility as a result of visual surface penetrations.

**DISCUSSION.** Prior to TERPS change 19, the effect of obstacles on the establishment of visibility minimums was contained in chapter 3, section 3, paragraph 332. This paragraph described the effects of obstacles within a visual segment area defined by the first 10,000 feet of the old (chapter 9) ILS trapezoid. Change 19 updated the visual segment to new dimensions and moved the evaluation criteria to chapter 2 general criteria. Paragraphs 251b(1) and 251b(2) describe the effects of obstacles in the visual segment. In paragraph 251b(1), 34:1 surface penetrations that cannot be eliminated result in a visibility limitation of  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. In paragraph 251b(2), 20:1 surface penetrations that cannot be eliminated result in a visibility limitation of 1 mile. These visibility limitations are intended to provide sufficient visibility to allow the penetrating obstacle to be seen prior to reaching it; therefore, publication of lower visibility values is not authorized.

**POLICY.** For all procedures (both airplane and helicopter), where obstacles penetrate paragraph 251 visual surfaces, visibility credit for approach lighting systems must not reduce published visibility to values less than the values specified by paragraph 251 ( $\frac{3}{4}$  or 1 mile as appropriate). Except for procedures titled "COPTER....", annotate the applicable 8260- series form in the Notes section with: "Chart Note: **Visibility Reduction by Helicopters NA.**" Apply this policy to all original procedures, and to existing procedures when they are amended or during their biennial review, whichever occurs first.

  
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